

Sussex China Seminar Series

Perspectives on Social, Technological and Environmental Dynamics in a Changing China

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From CDM to domestic carbon market: China's experiment with market instruments for climate governance

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Abstract

China plays a decisive role in the global effort of combating climate change both in terms of its sheer size of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the large potential for abatement options. Hence the attitude, strategy and policy tools that are adopted by the Chinese government and non-government entities would produce a profound impact not only on the domestic development path but the overall sustainability at global scale. Since last decade, it became increasingly clear that Chinese government is keen to apply market instruments such as emission trading schemes and carbon offset activities as a major policy element to tackle its soaring emission in a cost-effective manner. This seminar will explore how these market instruments, namely CDM in the earlier years and domestics piloting carbon trading schemes (ETS) in the recent years, are constructed and developed in China. The focus has been given to the Chinese business community as a major shaper at the policy implementation level. A comparative analysis of the outcomes of CDM and ETS is also carried out to understand how businesses are able to influence the consequences of these policy innovation from bottom up. Finally the talk intends to provide some insights on how market instruments are actually governed in developing countries.

Biography

Between 2014 and 2015 Dr. Wei Shen is a lecturer of low carbon economy at China Three Gorges University, and from September 2015 he will join IDS as a research fellow. Wei finished his PhD in 2013 from University of East Anglia with his thesis focusing on the political economy of China's CDM market and role of business power in the climate governance in China. He has been doing research on China's carbon market and climate governance since then and published his works at peer reviewed journals. Between 2010 and 2014 he also worked as a part-time consultant for Chinese carbon management companies in Beijing. Prior to his academic career, Wei has been working in China's development finance industry for over ten years. He had worked as a senior risk analysis for Chinese overseas development projects (infrastructure and energy facilities in particular) and his expertise areas include Sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia.